

final disposal can be effected in the deep level repository for low and intermediate level waste planned to be developed by NIREX, although such a facility will not be operational until the next century. Option (a) is estimated to cost around £11 million per submarine, option (b) around £6 million, including the expense of using the NIREX repository.

#### PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

8. I had asked CFS to plan to sea-dump DREADNOUGHT on 1 July 1989. For this purpose, we need to make a public announcement by 1 January, because of the need to give the NEA and the LDC parties six months notice of our intention. The dockyard work on the submarine can be accommodated during the six months, except for the pre-planning work which the <sup>dockyard</sup> contractors need to begin as soon as possible. In the event of a delay, the latest time when DREADNOUGHT can be disposed of at sea in 1989 is 1 September, because the weather in autumn is likely to be unsuitable for a long tow. The last date when a decision could be announced is therefore 1 March. However, it should be noted that the <sup>dockyard</sup> pre-planning work will be difficult to conceal, and so there could be a leak about our intentions before 1 January.

#### POLITICAL ASPECTS

9. Although the technical, legal and scientific case has been established, there remain certain political obstacles to sea-disposal.

#### ATTITUDE OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

10. Disposal of our submarines is of course a matter for collective

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